

adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

sub E1  
cont  
contacting and mixing the solution containing the released nucleic acids and the chaotropic agent with a substance containing silicon oxide thereby to bind the nucleic acids to the substance;

isolating the substance to which the nucleic acid is contacted from the solution;

D1  
Cont  
washing the isolated substance with an aqueous washing solution containing alcohol; and

eluting the nucleic acid bound to the substance from the adsorbing solid phase,

wherein the releasing step through the eluting step are conducted separately and in turn.

25. (Amended) A method for recovering a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material, which comprises the steps of:

sub E2  
D2  
releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material and forming an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

contacting and mixing the solution containing the released nucleic acid and the chaotropic agent with a substance containing silicon oxide thereby to bind the nucleic acids to the substance;

sub E2  
cont  
isolating the substance to which the nucleic acid is adsorbed from the solution;

washing the isolated substance with an aqueous washing solution containing alcohol and acetate; and

eluting the nucleic acid bound to the substance, thereby to obtain a purified nucleic acid,

wherein the releasing step through the eluting step are conducted separately and in turn.

D2  
cont  
26. (Amended) A method for recovering a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material, which comprises the steps of:

providing a first solution for releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material;

providing a second solution by adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

providing a third solution containing the chaotropic agent for binding the released nucleic acid to a substance containing silicon oxide;

isolating the substance to which the nucleic acid is bound from the solution;

providing an aqueous solution containing alcohol and a salt for washing the isolated substance;

eluting the nucleic acid bound to the substance; and, removing alcohol and salt contained in the eluted nucleic acid, thereby to obtain a purified nucleic acid;

wherein the first solution, the second solution and the third solution are provided separately and in turn.

27. (Amended) A method for isolating a substance containing silicon oxide to which a nucleic acid is bound, which comprises the steps of:

providing a first solution for releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material;

providing a second solution by adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid; and

providing a third solution containing the chaotropic agent for binding the released nucleic acid to a substance containing silicon oxide,

wherein the first solution, the second solution and the third solution are provided separately and in turn.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim 27, which further comprises the step of separating the substance from the third solution, conducted separately after the binding step.

sub E<sup>3</sup> 29. (Amended) The method according to claim 28, which further comprises the step of providing an aqueous fourth solution containing a salt and an alcohol for washing the separated substance, conducted separately after the separating step.

D<sup>2</sup> cont 30. (Amended) The method according to claim 29, which further comprises the step of providing an aqueous fifth solution containing a buffer for eluting the nucleic acid from the substance.

31. (Amended) The method according to claim 30, which further comprises the step of removing alcohol and salt remaining in the eluted nucleic acid.

32. (Amended) A method for isolating a substance containing silicon oxide to which a nucleic acid is bound, which comprises the steps of:

providing a first solution for releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material;

transferring an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid to a second solution containing a chaotropic agent; and

D<sup>2</sup> transferring the aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid to a third solution containing the chaotropic agent for binding the nucleic acid to a substance containing silicon oxide,

wherein the steps of providing the first solution, transferring the aqueous solution to the second solution, and transferring the aqueous solution to the third solution, are conducted separately and in turn.

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**REMARKS**

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.  
Claims 20-32 are pending.